

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: August 7, 2001

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on August 3, 2001

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: David A. Ullrich
Acting Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and stakeholder feedback:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Response, Rochester Street Mercury Spill, Lafayette, Indiana

On August 1, 2001, at the request of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Barbi Lee and the Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) responded to a report of mercury spilled at a rental home located in Lafayette, Indiana. IDEM reported that a couple moving into the home found a container filled with mercury in the basement of the home. Material was spilled from the container onto the floor and material also splashed onto some of the clothes of the individual in the basement. The reporting party contacted IDEM on July 31, 2001, and IDEM contacted the U.S. EPA phone duty officer, Charles Gebien, requesting U.S. EPA assistance for air monitoring. At that time, IDEM advised the couple not to move into the home.

When U.S. EPA and START arrived at the site and met with the IDEM OSC, the Tippecanoe County Health Department, and the landlord of the property, the home was completely closed and the central air conditioner was on. The Lumex (Mercury Vapor Analyzer) was used to conduct air monitoring readings. Readings throughout the home were above the recommended action levels. The air conditioning was turned off and windows were opened. The Lumex was also used to check the homes of the individuals present when the mercury

was spilled to determine if the mercury was tracked to other locations. The homes checked did not have elevated readings of mercury on the Lumex. On August 2, 2001, air monitoring of the residence outside of the basement, which had not yet been cleaned up, gave readings below the recommended action levels. IDEM and the Tippecanoe County Health Department will work with the landlord to remove the mercury from the basement.

Contact: Barbi Lee (312-886-5296)

O&M Turnover, Illinois Central Spring Site, Bloomington, Indiana

On August 1, 2001, the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) responsibilities for the U.S. EPA's Illinois Central Spring (ICS) Water Treatment Plant located in Bloomington, Indiana, were given to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). The ICS facility was designed and built by the Region 5 Removal Program starting in November of 1998 to mitigate the human health effects of a polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated spring (called Illinois Central Spring) which forms the headwaters of Clear Creek. The Illinois Central Spring is hydraulically connected to the Lemon Lane Landfill Superfund site, a National Priorities List (NPL) site, via the subsurface karst topography which underlies the area. The Lemon Lane Landfill was used to dispose of PCB laden capacitors by the former Westinghouse Corporation. U.S. EPA's facility is capable of treating up to 1,000 gallons per minute (gpm) using an inclined plate clarifier, three multi-media filters, two large "sock filters", and four 20,000-pound granular activated carbon filters. The contaminated sediment is stored in two thickeners before it is "pressed" into filter cake. The contaminated "cake" is then sent off site for proper disposal. In addition, the facility is capable of storing for later treatment, an additional 5,000 gpm, up to a storage capacity of 1.3 million gallons of contaminated spring water. This is done by utilizing two two-acre-feet storage tanks. The plant became operational in May of 2000, with the storage tanks becoming operational in July of 2001. From May 2000 to July 31, 2001, U.S. EPA conducted a "shakedown" period. To date, over 130 million gallons of PCB contaminated spring water have been treated and returned to Clear Creek.

Contact: Ken Theisen (312-886-1959)

PRP Removal Action Start, MichCon H Site, Detroit, Michigan

The Michigan Consolidated Gas Company (MichCon), a potentially responsible party (PRP), has started to mobilize on site at the

MichCon H Site, Detroit, Michigan, under a consent order negotiated by On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Ralph Dollhopf. The oversight of the site work will be monitored by Ross Powers, with assistance from the OSC and the Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START). The City of Detroit is very interested in getting this site cleared of contamination in preparation for anticipated redevelopment. The southwest (SW) Detroit area has had significant new Brownfields projects completed recently and the 201 Green Street, MichCon H site is hopefully going to become another one. Removal actions in support of Brownfields have worked very well in assisting local redevelopment efforts in Detroit.

Contacts: Ross Powers (734-692-7681)
Ralph Dollhopf (734-692-7682)

Public Meeting (Site Update and Enforcement Lead Change), Allied Paper, Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site, Kalamazoo, Michigan

On July 25, 2001, Remedial Project Manager Tom Short participated in a public meeting with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to provide the public with an update on the various operable units and to discuss the enforcement lead change at the Allied Paper, Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund site, Kalamazoo, Michigan. On July 24, 2001, Russell Harding, Director of MDEQ, sent a letter to Dave Ullrich, Acting Regional Administrator, requesting that U.S. EPA take back the enforcement lead from MDEQ. The lead change was positively received by the public. Mr. Short and Brian von Gunten, the MDEQ project manager, committed to making the lead change as smooth as possible and to discussing the specifics of the transition for each of the operable units over the coming weeks to expedite site progress. MDEQ is interested in retaining the enforcement lead on a couple of the landfill operable units. The public also praised U.S. EPA for the successful completion of the Bryant Mill Pond removal action completed in 1999. Bryant Mill Pond (Portage Creek) runs along the perimeter of the Allied Landfill operable unit.

Contact: Tom Short (312-353-8826)

Town Hall Meeting, Atofina Chemical Plant Explosion, Wyandotte, Michigan

On the evening of July 26, 2001, a Town Hall meeting sponsored by the Southeast Michigan Coalition for Occupational Safety and

Health (SEMCOSH) and the Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club was held to discuss residents' concerns over the Atofina Chemical plant explosion of July 14, 2001. The Town Hall meeting was hosted by the Reverend Charles Morris of St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church in Wyandotte, Michigan. Agencies represented at the Town Hall meeting included U.S. EPA, the U.S. Coast Guard Detroit Marine Safety Office, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Wayne County Department of Public Health. In addition, representatives from the Atofina plant were also available to address the residents' concerns. U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Michelle Jaster represented the U.S. EPA at the meeting and presented results from U.S. EPA's air monitoring program that had been implemented in response to the temporary evacuation of approximately 2,500 residents on the day of the incident. OSC Robert Buckley also attended the meeting. Approximately 100 residents attended the meeting, which was covered by a wide variety of the local media.

Contact: Michelle Jaster (734-692-7683)

Site Assessment, MDOT Bovine Storage Yard, Bovine, Michigan

On July 31, 2001, U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Michelle Jaster completed a site assessment at the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) storage yard in Bovine, Baraga County, Michigan. The site assessment was conducted in response to allegations of buried paint, fuel oil, and solvent waste at the MDOT facility. The site borders the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) tribal lands. Mark Vendl, Jim Ursic, and Steve Peterson of U.S. EPA's Field Services Section assisted in the site assessment. Various geophysical instruments were utilized by U.S. EPA to delineate areas of potential buried drums. As a direct result of the accuracy of these instruments, several areas containing buried drums and drum parts were delineated on the MDOT property. U.S. EPA's Geoprobe was utilized to collect soil samples from 4-8 foot depths across the property. Representatives from the KBIC, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), and U.S. EPA's Tribal Liaison Office also attended the site inspection. MDOT provided a backhoe for excavation activities, and assisted with additional Geoprobe soil and groundwater sampling activities. U.S. EPA's Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) contractor has shipped samples to a commercial laboratory for analysis, and results are expected in the next several weeks. Upon receipt of these analytical results, all interested parties will discuss the appropriate next steps for the property.

Contact: Michelle Jaster (734-692-7683)

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Headquarters Bronze Medal Recipient (Gail Nabasny)

Gail Nabasny was recently recognized at the U.S. EPA Headquarter's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) awards ceremony. She received the Agency's Bronze Medal for her effort on the Superfund Contracts 2000 Workgroup. The award recognized her dedication, innovation and trendsetting work performed to develop a contracts acquisition strategy.

Contact: William Messenger (312-353-1057)

cc: Barry Breen (OECA)
Steve Luftig (OSWER)
Larry Reed (OERR)
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)
Craig Beasley (OSWER)
Michael Shapiro (OSWER)
Sylvia Lowrance (OECA)
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
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ORA State Coordinators
Regional Team Managers